

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

25. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A water-soluble flocculant according to claim 24 comprising a combination of:

a polymeric material having an average molecular weight of at least 5000, said polymeric material comprising at least one cyano group wherein said at least one cyano group comprises at least 15 mol% of the total monomer units present in said polymeric material; and

a hydrolysis catalyst;

wherein said polymeric material and said hydrolysis catalyst combine to convert at least a portion of said at least one cyano group to a carbamoyl group.

Claims 26-39 (canceled)